(c) and (d) Action will be taken against the defaulting officials on receipt of the final report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety. The Loco Pilot, Assistant Loco Pilot of 2779 Goa Express and the Signal Maintainer have been placed under suspension. Divisional Railway Manager, Agra and Senior Divisional Signal and Telecommunications Engineer, Agra have also been transferred.

(e) Safety is the prime concern of Indian Railways and all possible measures are being taken to prevent accidents which include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for up-gradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. As a result, there has been a declining trend in the number of consequential train accidents. In the current year during April to October 2009, consequential train accidents decreased from 105 to 82 in comparison to the corresponding period of the previous year.

Foodgrains destroyed by rats and insects

†*31. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to slate:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains destroyed by rats and insects during last three years;

(b) whether insecticides are used in storing the foodgrains to save them from perishing;

(c) if so, the quantum of insecticides used each year in the last three years and the cost incurred thereon; and

(d) the reasons for substantial loss to the foodgrains by rats and insects despite their upkeep with the use of insecticides?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Due to the use of effective rodenticides and insecticides for the control of rats and insects, the quantum of foodgrains destroyed in Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns during last three years is negligible.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The quantum of insecticides used in each year in the last three years in FCI godowns and the cost incurred thereon are given below:

Year	Quantum of insecticides used		Cost incurred (Fig. In lakh Rs.)
	Solid/ powder insecticides (Tonnes)	Liquid insecticides (Litres)	
2006-07	346.3	23330	576.38
2007-08	407.1	24029	624.59
2008-09	514.0	33769	799.04

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(d) Due to the use of rodenticides /insecticides for the control of rats, insects and steps taken by FCI for proper upkeep of foodgrains in its godowns, losses of foodgrains by rats and insects in FCI godowns are reported to be negligible.

Financial assistance from Sugar Development Fund

*32. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka Government has recommended nine proposals to the Centre for financial assistance from Sugar Development Fund for the development of sugarcane areas of the sugar factories and also for expansion-cum-cooperation scheme; and

(b) if so, by when the proposals are likely to be cleared by the Centre and the reasons for delay as eight of the nine proposals have been pending since 2002 onwards and in the ninth case in which first instalment of assistance was released in April, 2006, the second one is awaited since then?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Since 2002, Karnataka Government has recommended 15 proposals for loans from Sugar Development Fund for sugar mills in the State of Karnataka. The status of each is as follows:-

(A) Cane Development Loans

Sl.No.	Name of the sugar factory	Date of receipt of application in SDF	Current status and reasons of pendency, if any
1	2	3	4
1.	M/s Bhadra SSK Niyamit, Doddabathi, Davanagere Taluk, Karnataka	7.2.2002	Loan of Rs.231.30 lakh was sanctioned on 24.6.2003. However, as the sugar factory had outstanding SDF dues, which it failed to clear, as per SDF Rules and norms, the loan could not be disbursed.
2.	M/s Malaprabha SSK, Dist. Belgaum, Karnataka	28.3.2002	Loan of Rs.251.21 lakh was sanctioned on 8.6.2004. The sugar factory has not applied for disbursement of loan after completion of required documentation and formalities.
3.	M/s Dakshina Kannada Sahakari Sakkare Karkhane Niyamit, Brahmavara, Udupi, Karnataka	5.9.2002	The sugar factory had negative networth and had SDF over dues, which the factory has failed to clear. As such as per SDF Rules and norms, the sugar factory is not eligible for SDF loan.